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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Uranium Mining at Breitenbach-Potucky

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June 1948 to December 1948

1. Location

The Magdalena Mine was located about 1,000 feet northeast of the Breitenbach (N 51/K 51) railroad station and was assigned to the nationalized enterprise "Jachymovske doly n.p." (Jachymov Mines, National Corporation)

2. Installations

A pithead frame at the pit mouth. About 130 feet to the southwest was a waste dump (connected with the mine by a bridge), and a cantonment building where miners changed clothes, a workshop, an office building, and a compressor station. There were spur tracks to the Potucky railroad station.

3. Management

Soviet engineer Litvinov was operational manager in the Potucky district, which consisted of the First of May, Slovanka, Mine No 2, Magdalena, and October Mines.

4. Work force

280 German PW's working in each of the three shifts.

5. Output

Only uranium ores were produced in the Magdalena Mine. About seven hundred mine carloads of crude materials were produced per shift. After cleaning, the daily output was reduced to about fifteen 16x12-inch tin boxes of processed materials. These were trucked to the Jachymov Center.

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March 1948 to March 1949

6. Existing uranium mines: Mine I, Mine II, First of May, Slovanka, Magdalena, Rudolf.
7. The main work force was employed in the Magdalena and Slovanka Mines.
8. Managing engineer: Soviet engineer Litvinov.
9. Digging quota per man and shift: a level drift of 10 feet. General production norm: 60 mine cars per shift.
10. Three-shift operation, each shift with 70 PW's and 60 Czech civilians.
11. Primitive mine installations. Only the Magdalena Mine had an American hoisting device.
12. There was an underground level connection between Mine II and the Slovanka Mine. It was scheduled to interconnect all the mines.
13. As far as could be learned, the prospected materials contained only slight uranium elements. Planning and construction of levels was done exclusively under Soviet management, with complete disregard for mining experiences and construction regulations.
14. It was rumored among PWs in February 1949 that a uranium-containing argillaceous layer, 13 feet long and one inch thick, had been discovered.
15. The ores produced were washed in nearby Jachymov.

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